

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, June 5. 1708.

OUR Last concluded with Andrew Marvel's old Proverb,
Viz. *He, that buys must sell;* which is explain'd thus; "That he that would buy the Country to choose him, would sell the Country when they had chosen him, &c. To which I shall add a Story of William Rufus; and then proceed to the Application— The Story is as follows.

William Rufus, the Second King of England from the Conquest, having an Abby to bestow in Gift, several of the Clergy knowing the King to be Covetous, bid large Sums for the Place;

the King seeing a Monk stand by, that offer'd nothing, and took no Notice of it, ask'd him, *And what wilt thou give for this Abby?* Indeed not one Penny, says the Monk, for it is against my Conscience. Then, says the King, *Thou art the fittest Man to be Abbot,* and so gave him the Abby immediately.

The Application is very short, Gentlemen; You have here a great many, Instructors that set up to teach you, and pretend to advise you who to choose some one Sort, some another; Will you but please to take the Moral of this Story,

Story, and you will need no Body's Instruction ; Do but choose the Men that will not spend one Penny to be chose ; Men that will not go over their Thresholds to be h' cose — ; Men that in Conscience cannot bribe, nor buy your Voices, & Man may without Hazard pledge his Life, that such a Man will serve you impartially when he is chosen.

But this Bribing, Treating, making Parties and Interests to be chosen, is a wicked English Custom — and what has been the End of it, truly that England has been at the Brink of Destruction by bribing and bribed Members, when of 513 Members, 180 were Pensioners to the King, hired to vote as he liked, and to give away the Nations Money whenever he asked it — . This was the Time when two Gentlemen in Kent, Sir J—B—s and Colonel D—r by Name, spent 11000 lib. Sterling at one Election, to get into Parliament at a little Town call'd Winchelsea, all the Houses in which were not worth a quarter Part of the Money.

Now as these Men got Pensions when in, for Services they were to do ; there was some Reason to be shown why they should spend Money ; but as the Members now chosen can expect no such Clandestine Doings, what can be the Meaning now of this unhappy Practice ?

Shall I tell you the Design, it is equally wicked now, and perhaps in its kind as pernicious, viz. Supporting Parties, clubbing and forming Classes, and Clans in the House of Commons, in which is couched the Ruin of our Peace, the Overthrow of the Administration, and the involving us in innumerable Confusions.

Let but your Eyes look round you, and see, Gentlemen, what Absurdities begin to be practised among you, and what a War of Interest is here begun already, and where it will end, GOD knows.

Here Whigs put up Tories, and vote against Whigs ; there Tories put up Whigs, and vote against Tories ; here Party interferes with Relation, and there with Religion ; here Papists solicit for Whig, and Jacobites take the Oath to vote for Revolution-Men ; there Episcopal Men qualify to vote for Presbyterians, Fathers vote against their Sons, and Kindred against Kindred, no Clans are observed or regarded in Electing, and Party supersedes Relation.

And what does all this say to us, but prognosticate a miserable, self-interested Game, pursuing Parties, and swaying for publick Managements, not regarding the Countrys Interest, or so much as thinking of the Duty and Trust of a Representative.

Here I could open a large Scene of Dangers worse than French Invasions, or Almansa Victories, Dangers that reach the Vitals of Britain, and threaten the Teeming Union with instant Abortions ; Dangers, that in spight of all Prospect, will defeat the Advantages both Nations might reap by the hearty Pursuit of it, and Dangers which threaten our Religion, our Liberty, our Possessions, our Commerce, and our Posterity.

In electing of Members to represent you in Parliament, you give your Hand to the Securing or betraying your Liberties, your Laws, your Constitution, and your Nation. You cannot but remember,

remember, Gentlemen, That before the Union, great Objections were made against the Treaty in *England* from the Danger of the Church of *Scotland*, for that Nation would be over-powered in a *British* Parliament, out-voted, and their Liberties in Danger, their Church and their Constitution would be in danger of being subjected to the *English*.

I must acquiesce with that Objection, if they choose Men who will give them up to a Party in *England* that are for subjecting them—; but you are also to remember, there are in *England* a Party of Men Patrons of Liberty, who neither will enslave others, nor be Slaves themselves, who have twisted and incorporated all *Britain's* Liberties and their own, and both with the Government and their Laws, that all will stand and fall together.

If you choose Men that have a Sense of Liberty, a Sense of the Advantage of Laws, and of a Government that adheres to them, and governs by them, you will be secure and they too ; you will strengthen the Hands of the Men of Truth, and enable them to defend both you and themselves: If you choose Mercenaries, Enemies to the Government, Men careless of their own Liberty, or of yours either, they will be drawn in to joyn with a Party that will destroy you, and you ruin both your selves and your Friends, be it *England* or *Scotland*.

There are Men that please themselves at railing at their Governors, and think all Men honest that complain of the Knavery of others ; but this new Visor will detect it self—. Time was indeed, our Courts and our Kings have been our Betrayers and Undoers ;

but when Princes govern by Law, and abandon their Agents universally to Justice, as the Queen entirely does, the Murmur at the Governors and the Ministry, must be a State Trick to deceive the Innocent, and put the Face of a Patriot on the Machinations of a Traytor.

All the Clamour at the Ministry, and at Mismanagement, have been effectually silenced by this ; Where is the Man that has betrayed our Councils, neglected the publick Busines, omitted his Duty, or misapply'd the Treasure, charge him in Parliament, and see if the Queen protects him ?

Railing at Courts therefore, makes now no Patriot, and is no Rule to judge by—. But if you will choose Men to serve you honestly, let them be Men of tried Principles, known Characters, and profesi'd Concern for your Country's Liberties—. Upstarts, new Comers, Men come lately over, and perhaps hardly come over to honest Principles, Men known to you but by Recommendation, and perhaps but indifferently recommended neither ; these will never save *Britain* from her present Dangers : The Strife and Contention that now appears, has a melancholly Aspect, and plainly tells us, the Gentlemen are pursuing their Parties and their private Interests, not the Good of their Country ; such are not likely to be Champions of *Britain's* Liberties, to defend her against the Incroachments of her private Enemies, or to restore her Prosperity— : And therefore whilst this Contention of Parties continues, I must be excused to tell you very seriously, that *Britain* is in manifest Danger.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ALL those, who have Debts due from King William, King James, and King Charles, since the Restoration, for which no Provision hath been hitherto made by the Government, are deli'd to meet at the Star Coffee-house in Downing Street near White-hall, any Tuesday or Friday in the Afternoon; where Preparation is made for Proposals to the ensuing Parliament, of such Funds as will no way Clogg her Majesty's Revenues nor burthen the subject by any Tax; And it is hoped, that what is design'd to be offer'd will be satisfactory to the Parliament. It is therefore expedient, that the Parties concern'd do ascertain their Accounts, in the Proper Offices, that the Amountant may appear, and an Abstract of the said Debts may be taken in Readiness to be laid before the House. And whereas several of the Parties concern'd have met, they do unanimously declare their firm Resolution to proceed, and do pray All others that are concern'd, do not triflē nor delay to meet, being assur'd of Success, if they joyn their powerful Interest.

TH E Famous GOUT ANTIDOTE, that by Bathing only has lately cured so many Persons afflicted with the most violent Raging Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism, restoring them to Compleat and perfect Ease to a miracle, (as will be attested at Mr. Allcrafts, one of the Places of Sale) and that hath been experienc'd by thousands who have been cured by it, to be the only Remedy capable to give present Relief in the utmost Extremity, or almost distracting Torturing Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism, when all other means have been used in vain: It most infallibly takes away all manner of Pain in less than half an Hours time to admiration; and not only takes off a Fit for the present, but also prevents it returning again, and most certainly keeps the Gout from the Stomach. Is Sold only at Mr. Allcrafts a Toy-Shop, at the Blue-Coat Roy against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, and at Mr. Brook's Stationery at the Ship near the May-Pole in the Strand, at 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.



BARTLETT's Inventions for the Cure of Ruptures, which have gain'd S. Universel Esteem, are now, yet farther improv'd to so great a Nicet, that one of his Steel Spring Trusses of the largest Size, seldom Exceeds 4 ounces in Weight, and one of the smalleſt rarely exceeds a quarter of an Ounce, and are ſo well adapted to the ſhapes of human Bodies, that they are extraordinary easy even to Infants of a Day Old, and Intirely keep up the Ruptures of what Bignels ſover. Also divers Instruments to help the Weak and Crooked. By P. Bartlett at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Prescot Street in Goodmans Fields, London.

NOTE, He forges and finishes his Trusses himself, by which means he daily Improves his Inventions.

C I Thomas Pritchard, at the Saracens-Head in Little Carter Lane, near St. Paul's, London, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. Bartlett, at the Golden Ball in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields, London, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprize, and my Son has remain'd well ever ſince.

This is to give Notice, that I Richard Baker, of Lawrence Poltnys Lane, Cannonstreet, London, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at laſt I apply'd my ſelf to the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, at the Golden Ball by the Tavern in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Trusses and Rupture Spirits, with the Bleſſing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever ſince, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE; His Son P. Bartlett lives at the ſame Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the ſame Buſineſſ, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Inſtructed therin.